

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15 March 2007
Subject:	Consultation on proposed changes to Adult Community Care Services – Spring 2007
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Penny Furness-Smith, Director of Adult Community Care Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Silver – Adult Community Care Services and Issues Facing People with Special Needs
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – List of groups invited to pre-consultation event. Appendix 2 – Notes of pre-consultation event held on 12 February 2007

## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Summary

This report sets out the views expressed by invited stakeholders who participated in a formative process prior to commencing a formal consultation. It also asks Cabinet to confirm the options on which it wishes to consult.

### Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Confirm the options on which they wish to consult, as set out in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this report.
2. Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues Facing People with Special Needs to approve the final consultation document.

### Reason (for urgency)

To enable the 12 week formal consultation to commence by 26 March.

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### **1. Background**

1.1. At its meeting on 14 August 2006 Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy on the Revenue Budget 2007-08 to 2009-10.

1.2. It was resolved that: 'In addition to the general consultation with stakeholders, officers be instructed to commence specific consultation on the following proposals, as detailed in the report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy

1.2.1. Access to Care Eligibility Criteria

1.2.2. Day Care Charging'

### **2. Recommended Options for Consideration by Cabinet**

2.1. Stakeholders attending the pre-consultation event held on 12 February put forward a number of proposals for inclusion in the formal consultation document. Each of these suggestions are identified in Appendix 2 and have been considered and annotated accordingly. Members are asked to review these suggestions and consider whether the formal consultation process should contain the options set out at 2.2 and 2.3 below.

2.2. Proposed changes to the Eligibility Criteria under Fair Access to Care Services:

**Option 1:** To continue the existing policy to meet assessed needs at both 'substantial and critical bands'

**Option 2:** To meet only 'critical band' assessed needs and to stop paying for any assessed needs at 'substantial band' or below.

2.3. Proposed introduction of charges for attendance at Day Centres:

**Option 1:** To continue the existing policy of not charging for attendance at a day centre.

**Option 2:** To introduce a charge for attendance at a day centre and to set this charge at **either**

a) £6 per day (£3 per half-day) **or**

b) £12 per day (£6 per half-day) **or**

c) £20 per day (£10 per half-day)

### **3. Resources, costs and risks associated with the proposals**

3.1. None at this stage

### **4. Staffing/Workforce Considerations**

4.1. None at this stage.

## 5. Consultation

5.1. The Cabinet Code of Practice on Consultation suggests that it is good practice to undertake informal consultation with stakeholders to allow their engagement while proposals are still at the formative stage. It is felt that this leads to a more informed consultation exercise and ensures that stakeholders are engaged early and have a better understanding of the proposals.

5.2. 42 key stakeholders (Appendix 1) were identified and invited to a pre-consultation event held on 12 February.

5.3. A total of 27 individuals representing 17 organisations attended the event. A summary of the contributions and views expressed by participants is attached at Appendix 2.

## 6. Equalities Impact

6.1. Impact assessments on the proposed changes will be undertaken during the consultation process and reported back to Cabinet with the outcome of the formal consultation.

## 7. Key Performance Indicators

7.1. None at this stage.

## 8. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

8.1. None at this stage

### SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Donna Edwards Date: 28 February 2007
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Helen White Date: 26 February 2007

### SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact:

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**Background Papers:**

1. Harrow Code of Practice on Consultation
2. Cabinet Office (Better Regulation Executive) – Code of Practice on Consultation

**IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?**

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	1